

Appl. No. 10/604,703  
Response dated June 15, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of June 6, 2006

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. The Examiner objected to Applicants' response filed April 28, 2006 as being not fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 30, 2006 because the specification allegedly fails to provide proper antecedent basis for the parenthetical "(i.e., a plurality of)" added by amendment to paragraph [0032] in Applicants' response dated April 28, 2006 and the term "plurality of operating positions" recited in Applicants' claim 88. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and/or remarks provided herein.

#### Objection to the Specification (New Matter)

2. The specification was objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claim term "plurality of independent operating positions" in claim 88 and for introducing new matter by adding the parenthetical "(i.e., a plurality of)" after the phrase "at least two" in paragraph [0032] of the specification. The Examiner asserts that Applicants' specification, as originally filed, does not support Applicants' introduction of the phrase "a plurality of" as an equivalent to the phrase "at least two" as originally presented in paragraph [0032]. As a result, the Examiner requires that Applicants cancel the alleged new matter. Applicants strongly disagree with the Examiner's erroneous assertion and improper requirement.

Based on the Examiner's new matter assertion, the Examiner is clearly limiting Applicants to using identical language from their specification in their claims. However, the Examiner has provided no support, other than a token reference to 35 U.S.C. § 132, for this *in haec verba* (Latin for "in these words") requirement. Moreover, such an *in haec verba* requirement is expressly refuted in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. See M.P.E.P. § 2163(I)(B), 2<sup>nd</sup> para. ("While there is *no in haec verba* requirement, newly added claim limitations must be supported in the specification through express, implicit, or inherent disclosure.") (emphasis added). In other words, pursuant to the M.P.E.P. and in direct contradiction to the Examiner's position, Applicants are *not* limited to using the *exact* language of their specification in the claims. Rather, the specification need only *support* the claims. Applicants' use of the term "plurality of operating positions" is *supported* by Applicants'

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disclosure of "at least two operating positions" in paragraph [0032] of Applicants' originally filed specification.

Applicants have not defined the term "plurality" in their specification; thus, reference to a dictionary to construe a claim term is permissible. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2111.01(II), 2<sup>nd</sup> para. ("The ordinary and customary meaning of a term may be evidenced by a variety of sources, including: the claims themselves, dictionaries and treatises, and the written description, the drawings, and the prosecution history") (internal citations omitted). The definition of "plurality" most relevant to the present application is "the state of being plural" and the definition of "plural" most relevant to the present application is "relating to, consisting of, or containing more than one or more than one kind of class." *See* Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11<sup>th</sup> Ed., 2003, p. 955 (copy attached as Appendix I). Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the term "plurality" to mean "the state of consisting of or containing more than one." In other words, "plurality" means "more than one." Since, based on the foregoing, one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand the term "plurality" to mean "more than one" and, at least for integer numbers, "more than one" must mean "at least two," Applicants disclosure of "at least two" operating positions clearly supports Applicants' use of a "plurality of operating positions" in Applicants' specification and claims.

Notwithstanding the Examiner's clearly improper requirement that Applicants' delete the term "plurality" from the specification and claims, Applicants have so deleted the term in order to move prosecution forward. In particular, Applicants have deleted the parenthetical "(i.e., a plurality of)" from paragraph [0032] of Applicants' specification and replaced the word "plurality" in claim 88 with the phrase "at least two" as not only clearly supported, but also expressly stated, in paragraph [0032] of Applicants' originally filed specification. In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that they have overcome the Examiner's objection to the specification and claims based on use of the term "plurality" and respectfully request that the Examiner's objection be withdrawn.

Please note that Applicants have amended the specification and claims relative to the amendments made in Applicants' response dated April 28, 2006. In other words, only new amendments have been shown in the specification and claims. The amendments made to the specification and claims in Applicants' response dated April 28, 2006 are delineated in that

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response and are incorporated in the present response without delineation. For the sake of completeness, Applicants repeat below the text of their arguments submitted April 28, 2006 responsive to the Office Action dated March 30, 2006. A copy of Mr. Weiss' Second Declaration in support of Applicants' arguments and the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement accompanying Applicants' response dated April 28, 2006 are not being re-submitted for the sake of brevity. If the Examiner requires resubmission of those documents for consideration, Applicants request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that the documents can be promptly faxed to the Examiner.

Arguments Repeated from Response Dated April 28, 2006

3. Applicants do not use the phrase "plurality of independent operating *functions*" (emphasis added) in any pending claim. Applicants do however use the phrase "plurality of (now "at least two") independent operating *positions*" (emphasis added) in pending claim 88 and, therefore, assume for the remainder of this Section that the Examiner is referring to such phrase in the objection to the specification. If Applicants' assumption is incorrect, clarification is requested.

As explained below, Applicants' specification provides support for both of the phrases at issue (i.e., "plurality of independent operating positions" and "operating parameters"); however, in order to move prosecution forward, Applicants have nevertheless amended claim 88 to delete the adjective "independent" from the phrase "plurality of independent operating positions" and have amended claims 99 and 100 to recite "operating conditions" instead of "operating parameters." In addition, Applicants have amended paragraph [0032] of the specification to include the term "plurality of" as an equivalent to the originally cited "at least two." Support for Applicants' amendment of the term "plurality of independent operating positions" to "plurality of operating positions" can be found in, among other places, paragraph [0032] of Applicants' specification. Support for Applicants' amendment of the term "operating parameters" to "operating conditions" can be found in paragraph [0096] of Applicants' specification.

Applicants' originally filed specification supports both phrases at issue. For example, with respect to the phrase "plurality of independent operation positions" in claim 1, paragraph [0032] of Applicants' originally filed specification states that the at least one switching device

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has "at least two operating positions." In other words, paragraph [0032] discloses that the at least one switching device has "a plurality of" operating positions. In addition, paragraph [0089] states that "the invention permits the fully charged battery to be used independently to start the vehicle or device." Since the switching device's operating positions are what determine which battery is being used, such positions are clearly "independent." Moreover, Applicants FIGs. 3B, 4B, and 5B, together with their associated descriptions, clearly disclose the independent nature of the switching device's operating positions. As a result, Applicants' originally filed specification fully supports Applicants use of the phrase "plurality of independent operation positions" in claim 88. Nevertheless, in order to move prosecution forward, Applicants have amended claim 88 to remove the adjective "independent" from the phrase "plurality of independent operation positions."

Applicants' originally filed specification also fully supports Applicants' use of the phrase "operating parameters" in claims 99 and 100. For example, in paragraph [0096] of Applicants' specification, Applicants state that:

The *controller 700 monitors* and detects various *operating conditions* of the batteries through an at least one sensor. The at least one sensor can include, but is not limited to, any of an at least one main battery, auxiliary battery, and switch sensor or any additional sensors. The *controller 700 can* continuously *monitor* for example, but not limited to, any of the *following parameters* with any of the at least one main, auxiliary, or switch sensors: the auxiliary battery voltage, the main battery voltage, the auxiliary battery cold cranking amperage, the main battery cold cranking amperage, temperature, vibration, current, the switch state, the switch position, and the condition of various flags and various timers within the system.

(Emphasis added.) Based on the context of paragraph [0096] as emphasized in the above excerpt, the disclosed controller clearly monitors various *operating* conditions, or equivalently *operating* parameters, of the main and standby batteries. Examples of such parameters or conditions are then recited in the paragraph. One of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand the scope of Applicants' use of the term "operating parameters" in claims 99 and 100 given the recitations of paragraph [0096]. As a result, ample antecedent basis exists in Applicants' originally filed specification to support use of the term "operating parameters" in



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claims 99 and 100. Nevertheless, in order to move prosecution forward and as discussed above, Applicants have amended claims 99 and 100 to recite "operating conditions" instead of "operating parameters." The term "operating conditions" is also fully supported in paragraph [0096] of Applicants' originally filed specification.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to use of the phrase "plurality of independent operation positions" in claim 88 and to use of the phrase "operating parameters" in claims 99 and 100.

#### Objection to the Claims

4. Claim 98 was objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a) for introducing new matter into the specification. In particular, the Examiner asserts that there is no support in the specification for the switching device being operable in a "third operating position." Applicants respectfully disagree.

As clearly stated in paragraph [0080] of the application:

Finally, a *tertiary* or storage *operating* mode or *position* 370 would be provided wherein the switching device 300 would disconnect both the main battery positive output 110 and the auxiliary battery positive output 210 from the common positive terminal 310 when not in use.

(Emphasis added.) The term "tertiary" means "third" as defined in various dictionaries (see attached set of definitions from [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)). Thus, Applicants' originally filed specification clearly supports Applicants' use of a "third operating position" in claim 98. Thus, as stated by Applicants' in their RCE submission dated November 23, 2005, no new matter was added by the amendments to the specification and claims presented in such submission.

The Examiner appears to acknowledge, in Paragraph 10 on page 9 of the Office Action, that Applicants' specification discloses a "third operating position." However, the Examiner asserts that, since the third position shuts the battery system "OFF", the position of the switching device is "non-operating." Applicants disagree. While the third "operating" position of the switching device may indeed disconnect both the main battery and the standby battery from the electrical system, such position is still an "operating" position from the perspective of the

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*switching device*. In other words, the third *operating* position of the switching device renders the batteries non-operating. The term "third operating position" as recited in claim 98 relates to the switching device, *not* the batteries. Therefore, Applicants submit that the term "third operating position" as used claim 98 is not only supported by Applicants' specification, but is also used properly in the context of operation of the claimed switching device.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to use of the term "third operating position" in claim 98.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

5. Claims 88, 95, 104, and 105 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Exide Switch Brochure. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the Exide Switch Brochure discloses all the limitations of Applicants' pending independent claims, including the limitation that "the main battery and the at least one standby battery never supply electrical energy to the electrical system simultaneously." Applicants respectfully disagree and enclose herewith a Second Declaration of Mr. William Weiss under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 in support of Applicants' arguments, which declaration is incorporated herein by reference.

A. Exide Switch Brochure Does Not Disclose All Limitations of Applicants' Independent Claims.

The Exide Switch Brochure appears to be an advertisement for the Exide Switch battery, which Applicants have discovered was actually marketed and sold by GNB International, a U.S. subsidiary of the Australian company Pacific Dunlop. The Exide Switch Brochure itself is undated, but was evidently received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 3, 1989 based on the date of the date stamp noted on the copy of the Exide Switch Brochure supplied by the Examiner. Since there are no markings on the Exide Switch Brochure evidencing its date of publication, if any, the Exide Switch Brochure may not qualify as a printed publication. Applicants address the printed publication issue below. For the remainder of this argument, Applicants assume, without prejudice and for the sake of argument only, that the Exide Switch Brochure is a proper printed publication.

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As disclosed in the Exide Switch Brochure, the Exide Switch battery has a main battery unit and a reserve battery unit integrated into a single device using so-called Pulsar Technology. The two units are linked by a switching mechanism that controls the discharge of the reserve unit. The main unit is separated from the reserve unit by a one-way diode that serves to allow power to flow from the reserve unit when the switch is pushed to the "Reserve" position. However, because the Exide Switch Brochure is merely a promotional tool, it is rather unclear as to the technical operation of the battery when the switch is pushed to the "Reserve" position. For example, while the Exide Switch Brochure states that "when the main battery goes flat, all you have to do to get instant power is push a switch to the live reserve unit," the Exide Switch Brochure fails to disclose how the main and reserve units interact when the switch is so pushed. In other words, the Exide Switch Brochure fails to disclose whether the two units are placed in parallel, in series, or are completely isolated when the switch is moved from "Main" to "Reserve."

To understand the actual operation of the Exide Switch battery, Applicants performed a variety of Internet searches in an attempt to find additional information on the Switch battery and Pulsar Technology. As a result of Applicants' search efforts, Applicants discovered two articles relating to the Switch battery, one published on September 25, 1989 (entitled "Neon colors jazz up APAA show; 'spare' batteries spark interest despite high prices – Automotive Parts and Accessories Association") (hereinafter the "AAPA Show Article"), a little over two months after the date that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office obtained a copy of the Exide Switch Brochure, and the other published on January 29, 1990 (entitled "'Spare' battery prices ease at discounters – automobile batteries"), only a few months after the AAPA Show Article. Applicants also discovered a laboratory testing report issued by EG and G Idaho, Inc. under a contract with the Department of Energy (entitled "Laboratory testing of GNB switch 12 volt SLI (starting, lighting and ignition) battery"). All of these new references shed additional light on the actual inter-workings of the Exide Switch battery (or "Switch" battery for short) advertised in the Exide Switch Brochure. All three references, as well as information relating to early technological developments in Australia from the 1800s through the 1970s and several additional battery patents are being submitted concurrently herewith in the form of a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

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As detailed in the APAA Show Article, the Switch battery features a spare battery housed within the case of the main battery. If the main battery is dead, the operator can open the hood and switch on the spare battery. The spare battery is "added" to the main battery when the switch is flipped to gain cold cranking amperage. In particular, the GNB Switch battery was specified at 640 cold cranking amps (CCAs), including 460 CCAs in the main battery and the balance of the 180 CCAs in the "spare" cells. As is well known in the art, the amount of current supplied by two current sources placed *in parallel* is the sum of the currents supplied by the individual current sources. (See Second Declaration of William Weiss under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, ¶ 11.) Therefore, based on the APAA Show Article's recitation of the CCA specification for the Switch battery, the APAA Show Article inherently discloses that the Switch battery is a dual battery system in which the main battery is placed in parallel with the spare battery when the switch is moved from "Main" to "Reserve." (See *id.* ¶ 12.) Such disclosure or suggestion is verified by the laboratory testing report issued by EG and G Idaho, Inc. ("DOE Report"). (See *id.* ¶ 18.)

The DOE Report was issued based on laboratory testing of the GNB Switch 12 Volt SLI battery (see title of DOE Report). Based on an analysis of the DOE Report and the Exide Switch Brochure performed by Applicants' expert, Mr. Weiss, the GNB Switch battery discussed in the DOE Report is identical or substantially similar in all material respects to the Switch battery that is the subject of the Exide Switch Brochure. (See *id.* ¶ 17.) As a result, the content of the DOE Report is highly relevant to understanding the operation of the Switch battery disclosed in the Exide Switch Brochure.

The DOE Report clearly states that the tested GNB Switch battery "consists of two batteries in one package which can be connected *in parallel* by a switch for higher cranking energy or reserve capacity." (See DOE Report, p. 1, Background) (emphasis added). As a result, the Switch battery disclosed in the Exide Switch Brochure is a battery system that utilizes a switch to connect a spare or reserve battery *in parallel* with a main battery when additional power is needed to start a car or otherwise. (See Second Weiss Decl. ¶ 18.)

Therefore, while the Exide Switch Brochure discloses an electrical system having a main battery, a standby battery, a one-way charging circuit, and a switching device operable in a plurality of operating positions, the Exide Switch Brochure fails to disclose or suggest a



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switching device that permits use of the standby battery independently of the main battery, such that the main battery and the standby battery never supply electrical energy to the electrical system simultaneously as required by all of Applicants' independent claims. (*See id.* ¶¶ 20-21.) Instead, the Exide Switch Brochure simply discloses a battery system that delivers electrical energy to an electrical system through a main battery either alone or in combination (i.e., in parallel) with a standby battery. (*See id.* ¶ 18.) As a result, the Exide Switch Brochure is merely cumulative to the prior art already cited by the Examiner, including U.S. Pat. No. 6,229,279 issued Dierker et al., which prior art has been addressed repeatedly and at length by Applicants in prior Office Action responses, such prior responses and supporting declarations (including the Declaration of Mr. William Weiss dated November 23, 2005) being incorporated herein by this reference.

Our understanding of the operation of the Switch battery disclosed in the Exide Switch Brochure is consistent with the understanding of others in the relevant art. In particular, the Exide Switch Brochure was cited as prior art in U.S. Patent No. 5,162,164 issued to Dougherty et al. ("the '164 Patent") and U.S. Patent 5,002,840 issued to Klebenow et al. ("the '840 Patent"), as indicated on the front pages of those patents. At column 1, line 63, through column 2, line 18, of the '164 Patent, Dougherty et al. discuss the operation of the battery system disclosed in the Exide Switch Brochure and clearly state that the "two batteries are electrically configured *in parallel*, with a one-way diode disposed therebetween to prevent the reserve unit from discharging during periods of non-use." (*See* Second Weiss Decl. ¶ 19) (emphasis added). Thus, the Exide Switch Brochure fails to disclose or suggest a dual battery system in which the main battery and the standby battery never supply electrical energy to the electrical system simultaneously as required by all of Applicants' independent claims. (*See id.* ¶¶ 20-21.)

Therefore, based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that the recitations of claims 88, 95, 104, and 105 are not disclosed or suggested by the Exide Switch Brochure and respectfully request that claims 88, 95, 104, and 105 be passed to allowance.

B. Exide Switch Brochure Is Not a Printed Publication

As an alternative basis for allowing the independent claims of the present application, the Exide Switch Brochure does not qualify as a printed publication with which to reject Applicants'

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claimed invention because there is no evidence that the Exide Switch Brochure was actually ever published or issued, as required by 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). *See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(d)(1); M.P.E.P. §§ 706.02(a) and 901.06. To qualify as a printed publication, a document must be circulated to some extent. *See Total Containment Inc. v. Environ Products, Inc.*, 921 F. Supp. 1355, 1375 (E.D. Pa. 1995), *aff'd* 106 F.3d 427 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (holding undated brochure not printed publication) (hereinafter "*TCI*"). In *TCI*, the Court analyzed several documents that allegedly anticipated the invention at issue. One allegedly anticipatory document was referred to as the Hofit brochure (hereinafter the "*Hofit Brochure*"). The undated brochure was purported to have been distributed on a non-confidential basis by Hofit Plastic Products more than one year prior to the earliest date of which the patent at issue would have been entitled. There was evidence that only one association ever received the brochure. However, the association did not date stamp its files and therefore the date of receipt was not established. In addition, the association would not release the brochures without approval from Hofit Plastic Products, placing the public accessibility of the brochures in doubt.

In the present case, the Examiner has provided no evidence that anyone besides the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter "*PTO*") actually received the Exide Switch Brochure. The Examiner states that the Exide Switch Brochure anticipates claims 88, 95, 104 and 105, but never provides the issue or publication date of the reference. The Exide Switch Brochure contains a date stamp indicating the date it was received by the PTO, probably in connection with Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) filed during prosecution of either U.S. Pat. No. 5,002,840 to Klebenow et al. or U.S. Pat. No. 5,162,164 to Dougherty et al. On Form PTO-892 in the present application, the Examiner lists the PTO receipt date, *not* the publication date. However, there is no requirement that information submitted in an IDS must be prior art. *See* M.P.E.P. § 609. In addition, a file wrapper is not deemed a printed publication merely due to the issuance of the patent associated therewith. *See Camp Bros. & Co. v. Portable Wagon Dump & Elevator Co.*, 251 F. 603 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1918) ("The resultant inconvenience of holding such contents of a file wrapper to be publication- indeed, the practical impossibility of making in each case the search necessary to learn whether or not there lies buried in some one file wrapper of the infinite number in the Patent Office, some paper disclosure of an invention, of itself, apart from its inherent want of the elements of a public disclosure- induces the conclusion that it may not be

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regarded as such a publication.”). Therefore, mere receipt of a document by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office does not constitute publication or issuance of the document, and the Examiner has not shown that the Exide Switch Brochure was published more than one year prior to Applicants’ filing date. Without a proper determination of the issue or publication date of the Exide Switch Brochure, the Examiner has not properly applied 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 706.02(a)(I). Therefore, Applicants’ submit that the Examiner has not sustained the Office’s burden to show that the Exide Switch Brochure is a printed publication sufficient to maintain a rejection of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and respectfully request that Applicants claims 88, 95, 104, and 105 be passed to allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

6. Claims 89-92, 94, 96, and 97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Exide Switch Brochure. Claims 89-92, 94, 96, and 97 are dependent upon claim 88, which claim has been shown allowable above. Therefore, at least because claims 89-92, 94, 96, and 97 each introduce additional subject matter that, when considered in the context of the recitations of claim 88, constitutes patentable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that the recitations of claims 89-92, 94, 96, and 97 are not disclosed or suggested by the Exide Switch Brochure. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 89-92, 94, 96, and 97 are in proper condition for allowance.

7. Claim 93 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Exide Switch Brochure in view of Geibl et al. (hereinafter “Geibl”). Claim 93 is dependent upon claim 88 (through intervening claim 91), which claim has been shown allowable above. Therefore, at least because claim 93 introduces additional subject matter that, when considered in the context of the recitations of base and intervening claims 88 and 91, constitutes patentable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that the recitations of claim 93 are not disclosed or suggested by the Exide Switch Brochure and/or Geibl, whether taken alone or in combination. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 93 is in proper condition for allowance.

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8. Claims 99 and 100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Exide Switch Brochure in view of Hiroyuki et al. (hereinafter "Hiroyuki"). Claims 99 and 100 are dependent upon claim 88, which claim has been shown allowable above. Therefore, at least because claims 99 and 100 each introduce additional subject matter that, when considered in the context of the recitations of claim 88, constitutes patentable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that the recitations of claims 99 and 100 are not disclosed or suggested by the Exide Switch Brochure and/or Hiroyuki, whether taken alone or in combination. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 99 and 100 are in proper condition for allowance.

9. Claims 99-102 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Exide Switch Brochure in view of prior art disclosed by Applicants in the specification, and further in view of Cook et al. (hereinafter "Cook"). Claims 99-102 are dependent upon claim 88, which claim has been shown allowable above. Therefore, at least because claims 99-102 each introduce additional subject matter that, when considered in the context of the recitations of claim 88, constitutes patentable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that the recitations of claims 99-102 are not disclosed or suggested by the Exide Switch Brochure, Cook and/or the prior art disclosed by Applicants in the specification, whether taken alone or in combination. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 99-102 are in proper condition for allowance.

10. Claims 98 and 103 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Exide Switch Brochure in view of Krieger et al. (hereinafter "Krieger"). Claims 98 and 103 are dependent upon claim 88, which claim has been shown allowable above. Therefore, at least because claims 98 and 103 each introduce additional subject matter that, when considered in the context of the recitations of claim 88, constitutes patentable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that the recitations of claims 98 and 103 are not disclosed or suggested by the Exide Switch Brochure and/or Krieger, whether taken alone or in combination. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 98 and 103 are in proper condition for allowance.



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11. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone, facsimile or email if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the instant application. Please charge any necessary fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees (if applicable and not paid by separate check), to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1111.

Respectfully submitted,

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# APPENDIX I

# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

ELEVENTH  
EDITION



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated  
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

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or prowess : PRIZE  
e, appearance, or light  
b : an elongated and  
moke, exhaust gases, or  
ig a main shaft bearing  
ishy tail d : any of sev-  
arth's lower mantle that  
nt and to underlie the

provide or deck with  
oneself) in pride with  
of a bird a : to preen  
n and arrange (feathers)  
th or as if with a plume  
egret  
or plume  
Charles Plumier 1704

et, plomet, fr. plum lead  
also : PLUMB LINE  
'(birds ~ed down) 2

1 a : full of plums (a  
role in the movie) 2  
often to the point of ac-

ing feathers or plumes

ink, or come in contact  
2 : to favor or decide in  
aphatically — used with  
or heavily 2 : to give

also : the sound made by

vy drop 2 a : straight  
ication : DIRECTLY

P, FLOCK (a ~ of ducks)

vi : to become plump  
569) 1 : having a full  
: AMPLE, ABUNDANT

object carried in the

ote for only one candi-  
same office  
ay (a ~ pretty girl)  
ed manner and without

or state of being plump  
or circumlocution  
ned pudding containing

ato  
lin. of pluma small soft  
primary bud of a plant  
cotyl and consisting of

: DOWNY 2 : having or

der-ing \-d(ə)-rɪŋ/ (G  
y force (as in war) : En-  
take by force or wrong-  
nb) 2 : to make exten-  
rongfully (~ the land)  
ter-er \-dər-ər/ n  
LAGINO 2 : something  
lefly dial : personal or

lundering

fr. AF plunger, fr. VL  
to cause to penetrate or  
ged the dagger) 2 (fig)  
uddenly, unexpectedly  
e depression) ~ VL  
ater 2 a : to become  
rd and downwardly  
ff the embankment) ~ VL  
unexpectedly (plunges  
e heavily and recklessly  
e plunged)  
: DIVE; also : swim  
: as a : DIVER b :  
ing reciprocating piece  
IN (2) : a piece with  
r suction cup on which  
is of obstructions  
mit.] v (1805) 1 : to  
netallic; or harsh sound  
make a plunking sound  
in favor of someone  
— plunk-er n  
into position ~ VL  
the items down on the  
hunked himself down on  
down the money from

th, modif. of PLUNGE  
: PAST PERFECT

plu-ral \ˈplʊr-əl/ adj [ME, fr. AF & L; AF *plural*, fr. L *pluralis*, fr. *plur-*,  
*plus* more — more at PLUS] (14c) 1 : of, relating to, or constituting a  
class of grammatical forms usu. used to denote more than one or in  
some languages more than two 2 : relating to, consisting of, or con-  
taining more than one or more than one kind or class (a ~ society) —  
plural n — plu-ral-ly \-ə-lē/ adv

plu-ral-ism \ˈplʊr-ə-liz-əm/ n (1818) 1 : the holding of two or more  
offices or positions (as benefices) at the same time 2 : the quality or  
state of being plural 3 a : a theory that there are more than one or  
more than two kinds of ultimate reality b : a theory that reality is  
composed of a plurality of entities 4 a : a state of society in which  
members of diverse ethnic, racial, religious, or social groups maintain  
an autonomous participation in and development of their traditional  
culture or special interest within the confines of a common civilization  
b : a concept, doctrine, or policy advocating this state — plu-ral-ist  
\-lɪst/ adj or n — plu-ral-ist-ic \ˈplʊr-ə-lɪs-tɪk/ adj — plu-ral-ist-ic-ally  
\-lɪ-tɪ-k(ə)-lē/ adv

plu-ral-ity \ˈplʊ-ˈrə-lə-tē/ n, pl -ties (14c) 1 a : the state of being plu-  
ral b : the state of being numerous c : a large number or quantity 2  
: PLURALISM 1; also : a benefice held by pluralism 3 a : a number  
greater than another b : an excess of votes over those cast for an op-  
posing candidate c : a number of votes cast for a candidate in a con-  
test of more than two candidates that is greater than the number cast  
for any other candidate but not more than half the total votes cast  
plu-ral-ize \ˈplʊr-ə-lɪz/ v -ized; -izing (1803) : to make plural or ex-  
press in the plural form — plu-ral-iza-tion \ˈplʊr-ə-lə-ˈzā-shən/ n  
plu-rip-o-tent \ˈplʊ-ˈrɪ-pə-tənt/ adj [L *plur-*, *plus* more + *E potent*] (1916)  
: not fixed as to developmental potentialities; esp : capable of differen-  
tiating into one of many cell types (~ stem cells)

plus \ˈplʌs/ adj [L, adv., more, fr. neut. of *plur-*, *plus*, adj.; akin to Gk  
*pleion* more, L *plenus* full — more at FULL] (1579) 1 : algebraically  
positive 2 : having, receiving, or being in addition to what is anticipat-  
ed 3 a : falling high in a specified range (a grade of C ~) b : greater  
than that specified c : possessing a specified quality to a high degree  
4 : electrically positive 5 : relating to or being a particular one of the  
two mating types that are required for successful fertilization in sexual  
reproduction in some lower plantlike organisms (as a fungus)

plus n, pl plus-es \ˈplʊ-səz/ also plus-es (1654) 1 : PLUS SIGN 2  
: an added quantity 3 : a positive factor or quality 4 : SURPLUS

plus prep (1668) 1 : increased by : with the addition of (four ~ five)  
(principal ~ interest) 2 : BESIDES — used chiefly in speech and cas-  
ual writing (~ all this, as a sedative it has no equal — Groucho Marx)

plus conj (ca. 1950) 1 : AND (the Smyth Report, ~ an idea and some  
knowledge of bureaucracy, were all I needed — Pat Frank) (eats alone,  
a hot beef sandwich ~ a BLT ~ apple pie — Garrison Keillor) 2 : in  
addition to which (it was an achievement. Plus, I wrote the story and  
the musical score — Jackie Gleason) (it's also pretty on my open  
shelves, ~ it smells good — Nikki Giovanni)

usage The preposition *plus* has long been used with a meaning equiv-  
alent to *and* (as in "two plus two"); it is not, therefore, very surprising  
that in time people have begun to use it as a conjunction much like  
*and*. Sense 2 is considered to be an adverb by some commentators. It  
is used chiefly in speech and in informal writing.

plus fours n pl (1920) : loose sports knickers made four inches longer  
than ordinary knickers

plush \ˈplʊʃ/ n [MF *peluche*] (1594) : a fabric with an even pile longer  
and less dense than velvet pile

plush adj (ca. 1645) 1 : relating to, resembling, or made of plush 2 a  
: notably luxurious b : RICH, FULL (the ~ sound of his saxophone  
playing) (a ~, ripe wine) — plush-ly adv — plush-ness n

plushy \ˈplʊ-ʃē/ adj plush-ier; -est (1611) 1 : having the texture of  
or covered with plush 2 : LUXURIOUS, SHOWY — plush-i-ness n

plus/minus sign n (1971) : the sign ± used to indicate a quantity (as 2  
in "the square root of 4 is ±2") taking on both an algebraically positive  
value and its negative and to indicate a plus or minus quantity (as 4 in  
"the population age was 30 ± 4 years") — called also *plus/minus symbol*

plus or minus adj (1926) : indicating a quantity whose algebraically  
positive and negative values serve to bracket a range of values either  
alone or when added to and subtracted from a given number (meas-  
ured with an accuracy of plus or minus 3 feet) (a mummy aged 3500  
plus or minus 150 years)

plus or minus adv (1849) : MORE OR LESS, APPROXIMATELY (a dance  
for singles plus or minus age 30)

plus-sage \ˈplʌ-sij/ n (1924) : an amount over and above another  
amount

plus sign n (1841) : a sign + denoting addition or a positive quantity

Plu-to \ˈplʊ-(t)ō/ n [L *Pluton*, *Pluto*, fr. Gk *Ploutōn*] (14c) 1 : the  
Greek god of the underworld — compare DYS 2 [NL] : the planet with  
the farthest mean distance from the sun — see PLANET table

plu-to-cra-cy \ˈplʊ-tə-kre-sē/ n, pl -cies [Gk *ploutokratia*, fr. *ploutos*  
wealth; akin to Gk *plein* to sail, float — more at FLOW] (1652) 1 : gov-  
ernment by the wealthy 2 : a controlling class of the wealthy — plu-  
to-crat \ˈplʊ-tə-kreɪt/ n — plu-to-crat-ic \ˈplʊ-tə-kreɪ-tɪk/ adj — plu-  
to-crat-ic-ally \-tɪ-k(ə)-lē/ adv

plu-ton \ˈplʊ-tən/ n (prob. back-formation fr. *plutonic*) (1936) : a typi-  
cally large body of intrusive igneous rock

plu-to-ni-an \ˈplʊ-tō-nē-ən/ adj, often cap (1667) : of, relating to, or  
characteristic of Pluto or the lower world : INFERNAL

plu-ton-ic \ˈplʊ-tā-nɪk/ adj [L *Pluton*, *Pluto*] (1833) 1 : formed by so-  
lidification of magma deep within the earth and crystalline throughout  
(~ rock) 2 often cap : PLUTONIAN

plu-to-ni-um \ˈplʊ-tō-nē-əm/ n [NL, fr. *Pluton*, *Pluto*, the planet Pluto]  
(1942) : a radioactive metallic element similar chemically to uranium  
that is formed as the isotope 239 by decay of neptunium and found in  
minute quantities in pitchblende, that undergoes slow disintegration  
with the emission of an alpha particle to form uranium 235, and that is  
fissionable with slow neutrons to yield atomic energy — see ELEMENT  
table

plu-vi-al \ˈplʊ-vē-əl/ adj [L *pluvialis*, fr. *pluvia* rain, fr. fem. of *pluvius*  
rainy, fr. *pluere* to rain — more at FLOW] (ca. 1656) 1 a : of or relat-  
ing to rain b : characterized by abundant rain 2 of a geologic change  
resulting from the action of rain

pluvial n (1929) : a prolonged period of wet climate

ply \ˈpli/ v bplied; ply-ing [ME *plien*, short for *applien* to apply] vt

(14c) 1 a : to use or wield diligently (busily ~ing his pen) b : to  
practice or perform diligently (~ a trade) 2 : to keep furnishing or  
supplying something to (plied us with liquor) 3 a : to make a practice  
of rowing or sailing over or on (the boat plies the river) b : to go or  
travel regularly over, on, or through (jets ~ing the skies) ~ vi 1 : to  
apply oneself steadily 2 : to go or travel regularly

ply n, pl plies \ˈpli/ (1532) 1 a : one of several layers (as of cloth) usu.  
scwn or laminated together b : one of the strands in a yarn c : one of  
the veneer sheets forming plywood d : a layer of a paper or cardboard  
2 : INCLINATION, BIAS

ply vt plied; ply-ing [ME *plien* to fold, fr. AF *plier*, *pleier*, fr. L *plicare*;  
akin to OHG *flehtan* to braid, L *plectere*, Gk *plekein*] (ca. 1909) : to  
twist together (~ two single yarns)

Ply-mouth Rock \ˈpli-məθ-ək/ n [Plymouth Rock, on which the Pilgrims  
are supposed to have landed in 1620] (1849) : any of a U.S. breed of  
medium-sized single-combed domestic chickens raised for eggs and  
meat

plyo-met-rics \ˈpli-ə-me-trɪks/ n pl but sing or pl in constr [prob. irreg.  
fr. *plio-* + *-metrics* (as in *isometrics*)] (1981) : exercise involving repeat-  
ed rapid stretching and contracting of muscles (as by jumping and re-  
bounding) to increase muscle power — plyo-met-ric \-trɪk/ adj

ply-wood \ˈpli-wʊd/ n (1907) : a structural material consisting of  
sheets of wood glued or cemented together with the grains of adjacent  
layers arranged at right angles or at a wide angle

pm abbr 1 phase modulation 2 premium

Pm symbol promethium

PM abbr 1 paymaster 2 permanent magnet 3 postmaster 4 post  
meridien — often not cap and often punctuated 5 postmortem 6

prime minister 7 provost marshal

PMB abbr private mailbox

pmk abbr postmark

PMS \ˈpɛm-es/ n (1976) : PREMENSTRUAL SYNDROME

pmt abbr payment

PN abbr promissory note

-pnea or -pnoea n comb form [NL, fr. Gk *-pnoia*, fr. *pnoia*, fr. *pnein* to  
breathe] : breath : breathing (hyperpnea) (apnoea)

pneum- or pneumo- comb form [NL, partly fr. Gk *pneum-* (fr. *pneu-*  
*ma*); partly fr. Gk *pneumon* lung] 1 : air : gas (pneumothorax) 2  
: lung (pneumococcosis) 3 : respiration (pneumograph) 4 : pneu-  
monia (pneumococcus)

pneu-ma \ˈnu-mə, ˈnyū-/ n [Gk] (1884) : SOUL, SPIRIT

pneumat- or pneumato- comb form [Gk, fr. *pneumat-*, *pneuma*] 1  
: air : vapor : gas (pneumatolytic) 2 : respiration (pneumatophore)

pneu-mat-ic \ˈnu-mə-tɪk, ˈnyū-/ adj [L *pneumaticus*, fr. Gk *pneumat-*  
*ikos*, fr. *pneumat-*, *pneuma* air, breath, spirit, fr. *pnein* to breathe —  
more at SNEEZE] (1659) 1 : of, relating to, or using gas (as air or  
wind) 2 : moved or worked by air pressure b (1) : adapted for hold-  
ing or inflated with compressed air (2) : having air-filled cavities 2  
: of or relating to the pneuma : SPIRITUAL 3 : having a well-  
proportioned feminine figure; esp : having a full bust — pneu-mat-ic-ally  
\-tɪ-k(ə)-lē/ adv — pneu-mat-ic-ity \ˈnu-mə-tɪ-sə-tē, ˈnyū-/ n

pneu-ma-tol-o-gy \ˈnu-mə-tə-lə-jē, ˈnyū-/ n [NL *pneumatologia*, fr.  
Gk *pneumat-*, *pneuma* + NL *-logia* -logy] (1678) : the study of spiritual  
beings or phenomena

pneu-ma-to-lyt-ic \ˈnu-mə-tə-lɪ-tɪk, ˈnyū-/ (NL) (y)u-ma-/ adj [ISV]  
(1896) : formed or forming by hot vapors or superheated liquids under  
pressure — used esp. of minerals and ores

pneu-mat-o-phore \ˈnu-mə-tə-fōr, ˈnyū-/ n [ISV] (1859) 1 : a muscu-  
lar gas-containing sac that serves as a float on a siphonophore colony  
2 : a usu. partially exposed root of a wetland plant (as a mangrove) that  
functions esp. in the intake of oxygen from the atmosphere

pneu-mo-coc-cus \ˈnu-mə-kə-kos, ˈnyū-/ n, pl -coc-ci \-kə-kɪ, -kē/ [NL] (1890) : a bacterium (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*)  
that causes an acute pneumonia involving one or more lobes of the  
lung — pneu-mo-coc-cal \-kə-kəl/ adj

pneu-mo-co-ni-o-sis \ˈnu-mō-kō-nē-ō-sis, ˈnyū-/ n, pl -o-ses \-sēz/ [NL, fr. *pneum-* + Gk *konis* dust — more at INCINERATE] (1881) : a dis-  
ease of the lungs caused by the habitual inhalation of irritants (as min-  
eral or metallic particles) — compare BLACK LUNG, SILICOSIS

Pneu-mo-cys-tis car-i-ni pneumonia \ˈnu-mə-sɪs-təs-kə-ˈrɪ-nē-jē, ˈnyū-/ n [NL *Pneumocystis carinii*, species name] (1964) : a pneumonia  
chiefly affecting immunocompromised individuals that is caused by a  
microorganism (*Pneumocystis carinii*), attacks esp. the interstitial and  
alveolar tissues of the lungs, and is characterized esp. by a nonproduc-  
tive cough, shortness of breath, and fever — abbr. PCP

pneu-mo-graph \ˈnu-mə-graf, ˈnyū-/ n [ISV] (1878) : an instrument  
for recording thoracic movements or volume change during respira-  
tion

pneu-mo-nec-to-miy \ˈnu-mə-nek-tə-mē, ˈnyū-/ n, pl -mies [Gk  
*pneumon* + ISV *-ectomy*] (1890) : excision of an entire lung or of one or  
more lobes of a lung

pneu-mo-nia \ˈnu-mō-nyā, ˈnyū-/ n [NL, fr. Gk, fr. *pneumon* lung, alter.  
of *pneumon* — more at PULMONARY] (1603) : a disease of the lungs  
characterized esp. by inflammation and consolidation of lung tissue  
followed by resolution and by fever, chills, cough, and difficulty in  
breathing and that is caused esp. by infection

pneu-mon-ic \ˈnu-mā-nɪk, ˈnyū-/ adj [NL *pneumonicus*, fr. Gk *pnei-*  
*monikos*, fr. *pneumon*] (1675) 1 : of, relating to, or affecting the lungs  
(~ plague); PULMONIC, PULMONARY 2 : of, relating to, or affected  
with pneumonia

pneu-mo-ni-tis \ˈnu-mə-nɪ-tas, ˈnyū-/ n [NL, fr. Gk *pneumon*] (ca.  
1834) : inflammation of the lungs

pneu-mo-tho-rax \ˈnu-mə-thōr-aks, ˈnyū-/ n [NL] (1821) : a condi-  
tion in which air or other gas is present in the pleural cavity and which  
occurs spontaneously as a result of disease or injury of lung tissue, rup-  
ture of air-filled pulmonary cysts, or puncture of the chest wall or is in-  
duced as a therapeutic measure to collapse the lung

la/ about /ə/ kitten, F table /ər/ further /ə/ ash /ə/ ace /ə/ mop, mar  
la/ out /ə/ chin /ə/ bet /ə/ easy /ə/ go /ə/ hit /ə/ ice /ə/ job  
la/ sing /ə/ go /ə/ law /ə/ boy /ə/ thin /ə/ the /ə/ look /ə/ foot  
ly/ yet /ə/ vision, beige /k, ɔ, ɛ, ʌ/ see Guide to Pronunciation

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